

Amendments to the claims begin at page 3; and
Response begins at page 21.

A. SPECIFICATION

1. Kindly amend the title of the application to:

"SLIP COUPLING FOR PIPE"

2. Please replace the paragraph 0038 beginning at page 13, with the following amended paragraph:

[0038] As seen in FIGS. 2, 6, and 10-13, the split ring 50 can, in one embodiment, be provided with obverse side 112 and reverse side 114 which are identical. Alternately, as seen in FIGS. 5, and 15-18, in another embodiment 50B for a split ring, the obverse side 112' and the reverse side 114' are not identical, but, rather, the obverse side 112' matches, identically, the reverse side 114' of a companion flange suitable for mating engagement. In either case, whether with split ring 50 or with split ring 50B, each one of the split ring portions 50₁ and 50₂, or 50B₁ and 50B₂, has a pair of ear portions E. Each ear portion E has a face portion E_f adapted for matching engagement with a matching face portion E_f of another split ring portion. In various embodiments, ear portions extend arcuately so that the ear portions of a first ring portion and the ear portions of a second ring portion are configured for close fitting mating engagement when the split ring portions are in the closed position.